THE CASE OF THE Reduc'd OFFICERS OF THE ARMY,

Briefly Stated.

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2½d.

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And humbly offer'd to the Conſideration of his Royal Highneſs the PRINCE of WALES.

Hic manus ob patriam pugnando vulnera paſſi
Omnibus his nivea cinguntur tempora vitta.

Virg. Æn. l. 6.

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THE CASE OF THE Reduc'd OFFICERS of the ARMY, briefly Stated.

SIR,

THAT unparalell'd and exemplary Valour and Bravery, which your Royal Highneſs has more than once ſo ſignally manifeſted in the Field of Battle, and the indefatigable Care you have been pleas'd to take to preſerve true Military Diſcipline in the Army, in Time of Peace, are evident Demonſtrations of a truly Martial Spirit, and of a Genius naturally diſpos'd to Noble and Heroick Enterprizes.

The Conſideration of this, which diſplays a peculiar Luſtre, among your other innu-

innumerable Princely Virtues, gives thoſe Gentlemen that have had the Honour to ſerve the Crown in the late, long and bloody War, and have ſince been reduced to Half-pay, reaſonable Cauſe to believe, that they are allow'd ſome ſhare in your Royal Favour and Eſteem.

And it is this which encourages and emboldens the Writer of theſe Sheets on their Behalf, with the moſt profound Deference and Reſpect, to lay before you this ſhort State of the Hardſhips they labour under, thereby hoping to move your Royal Highneſs to favour them with your Intereſt and Interceſſion for their Relief and Redreſs; and he flatters himſelf, that they ſhall not be excluded from the Benefit of that Protection and Patronage, which you are graciouſly pleaſed ſo univerſally to diffuſe to ſuch Perſons, amongſt all Ranks and Conditions, as are proper Objects thereof, have juſt Pretenſions thereto, and make ſuitable Applications.

I. In the firſt Place, ſeveral of theſe Gentlemen do humbly conceive themſelves in a great Meaſure aggrieved, by their being fruſtrated and diſappointed of the good Effects of his Majeſty's gra-

cious

cious Intentions of providing for the reduc'd Officers, in the new Levies which were made for ſuppreſſing of the late unnatural Rebellion, according to the Seniority of their Commands: For, contrary to the expreſs Words of the Advertiſement, by his Majeſty's Order, publiſh'd in the *Gazette* for that End, ſeveral Miſtakes happen'd in the filling up of the Commiſſions for thoſe new Regiments; moſt of which were given to ſuch Officers, as had no Pretenſions till their Seniors ſhould be provided for; and many were beſtow'd upon Perſons that had never before ſerv'd in the Army.

It is true, the Parliament, about this Time, humbly addreſs'd the King to allow all the reduc'd Officers full Pay; which accordingly his Majeſty was graciouſly pleas'd to grant. And this may perhaps ſeem to be a compleat Reparation of the Loſs and Diſappointment ſuſtain'd by ſuch Gentlemen, as were juſtly entitled to the immediate Benefit of the aboveſaid Order.

But, in anſwer to this, it could not but be very diſſatisfactory to Men of Honour, and Lovers of their Country, to

to ſee themſelves diſappointed of ſo fair an Opportunity of ſignalizing their Fidelity and Bravery in her Defence; and conſequently to ſee thoſe Trophies of Glory and Renown worn by others, which of Right ought to have been the Purchaſe of their Swords. Again, full Pay being granted to all the Reduc'd Officers in general, without Diſtinction, there cannot be ſuppos'd to have been any particular Views in this generous Act, of recompenſing the above-nam'd Hardſhip in the Caſe of ſuch of them, as by the Seniority of their Commands had the Preference to others, who now enjoy their undoubted Right. Nor, indeed, can this be reckon'd an Equivalent, becauſe it is not only very precarious as to its Continuance, being merely a Compliment indulg'd by the Parliament from Time to Time; but alſo of much leſs Advantage, than the bearing a Commiſſion in a ſtanding Regiment, particularly by Gentlemens being depriv'd of an Opportunity to raiſe themſelves to higher Stations in the Army.

And, therefore, whatever may be the Fate of other Reduc'd Officers, it is humbly ſuppos'd, that ſuch Seniors, as abovemention'd, ought in Reaſon and Equity to

to be continu'd on full Pay; at leaſt, as long as the new Regiments, in which they ſhould have been poſted, are kept up. And even tho this be granted (as to which theſe Gentlemen do entirely rely on his Majeſty's Royal Goodneſs and Clemency, and the powerful Mediation of your Royal Highneſs) yet it does not retrieve the many Hardſhips and Loſſes brought upon them, through the aforeſaid Diſappointment. But on the other Hand, ſhould theſe Officers be at any Time included in the common Lot with others, of being again reduc'd to half Pay, which 'tis hop'd ſhall not befal either the one Claſs or the other, and if thoſe Officers ſo irregularly put into their Rooms ſhall ſtill continue regimented, inſtead of having their Grievances repair'd, they will be made more afflicting.

II. The Caſe of the Warrant-Officers is, in the ſecond Place, humbly offer'd to your Royal Highneſs's prudent Conſideration. His Majeſty, ſince his happy Acceſſion to the Imperial Crown of theſe Realms, was moſt graciouſly pleas'd to grant to ſome few Gentlemen his Royal Warrant for half Pay, according to the Commiſſions they formerly bore in the Army. Theſe were in hopes to have

been reſtor'd to whole Pay, with the other Reduc'd Officers, according to the Tenor of the Parliament's Addreſs; and, indeed, their being left out and excluded, ſeems to have been meerly an Omiſſion; but ſuch an Omiſſion, as has render'd the Caſe of thoſe Gentlemen worſe by the half than is that of their Fellow Officers, with whom they were formerly on a Level.

There needs no more but the very naming of this Matter to your Royal Highneſs, to beget your generous Compaſſion for thoſe Gentlemen whom it ſo nearly concerns, and to engage your Interceſſion on their Behalf. And it is humbly hop'd, that upon your Royal Highneſs's Repreſentation of their Caſe to the King, his Majeſty will be graciouſly pleas'd to order thoſe Officers an Equivalent for the Time paſt, and to put them on the ſame Foot with the others for the Future.

The Liberty to ſay this with the greater Aſſurance is humbly taken; becauſe there ſeems to be not only a great deal of Reaſonableneſs and Equity in the Caſe, but alſo the ſame appears conſonant to his Majeſty's former Goodneſs and gracious

cious Intentions towards thoſe Gentlemen, on whom he was pleas'd to confer the Benefit of his Royal Warrant. And it is evident, that their remarkable Loyalty and Firmneſs to the Intereſt of his Majeſty and his Government was the principal Cauſe, that procur'd them ſuch a particular Mark of Royal Favour. Beſides, theſe were all of them as ready and forward as any others, during the late Rebellion, to contribute their Services towards the ſuppreſſing of it, and to have march'd whitherſoever they ſhould have been commanded: And ſome of them, to ſhow their Zeal and Forwardneſs, did actually apply to be ſent to ſuch Places, where they had reaſon to believe their Intereſt, and Authority, and Knowledge of the Country might have been uſeful and ſerviceable at that Time; but the Government could not ſpare any more Officers from *London*, where Numbers of them were order'd to continue, to be ready on Occaſion.

Theſe Premiſes conſider'd, the Warrant Officers have reaſon to believe, that his Majeſty did intend for them, as well as for others, the Benefit of his Royal Condeſcention to the Parliament's Addreſs. And it is humbly hop'd your

Royal Highneſs will judge their Caſe not unworthy your generous Concern and Intereſt therein.

III. The next Thing that is humbly laid before your Royal Highneſs, concerns all the Reduc'd Officers in general, and relates to the Manner of paying them. The Hardſhips they do and muſt needs ſuffer in this Way are infinite; tho in the mean Time they are very ſenſible, that the Neceſſity of the State, by reaſon of the extraordinary Expences, on the Account of the late Rebellion, is the only Cauſe of the great Delays in their Payment. However, this Defect in the Manner of paying them is attended with ſeveral unhappy Conſequences, which I ſhall only here name in the general to your Royal Highneſs, they being but even now paid to the 24th of *July* laſt, the greateſt Part of them are forc'd to raiſe Mony *per* Advance, at exorbitant Intereſt, for the neceſſary Support of themſelves and Families. And there is too much Advantage taken of their Wants and Neceſſities by thoſe Perſons they deal with, who geenerally impoſe upon them with their griping Uſury, even frequently exacting 60 *per Cent.*

To

To which may be added the great Trouble and Expence of attending ſuch Perſons from Day to Day, oft times for whole Weeks together, in hopes to borrow from them a trifling Sum; ſo that many of the ſaid Officers have not half their Pay clear, after the Intereſt (or rather Uſury) and incident Expences are deduc'd.

The Author of the Account of the Court of *Hanover*, written in the Year 1701, in his Deſcription of his Majeſty's OEconomy in his Dominions in *Germany*, tells us, That the Expences of the Court, as to Eating and Drinking, Fire, Candles, *&c.* are duly paid every *Saturday* Night, and the Pay of the Officers of the Army once a Month. It is very much to be wiſh'd, that the Affairs of this Nation were in ſuch a happy Poſture, as that his Majeſty might be enabled to follow the ſame prudent Methods here, which would ſo much advance the Publick Credit, and promote the general Good of the Subject: For thus would be prevented the Miſapplication of the Publick Mony; by which abominable Practice too many in the Pay-Office have enrich'd themſelves; and the Reduc'd Officers would alſo be deli-

deliver'd from inexpreſſible Inconveniences and Exactions. But as to the particular Affair of theſe Officers: If their Pay were order'd to be clear'd once in Four Months, they would in this reckon themſelves extremely happy; or if this be not practicable, it is propos'd, that an Expedient be found which may anſwer the Purpoſe, and the following Scheme is humbly offer'd to your Royal Highneſs's Conſideration, *viz.* That, upon a Publick Security to be given to the National Bank, or other Publick Stock, the Agents of the Reduc'd Officers may be thence ſupply'd with Mony *per* Advance on Common Intereſt once in four Months, if demanded; and that before the Monies are iſſu'd out to the Agents, the Sums advanc'd on the ſaid Account, by ſuch Publick Stocks, be firſt ſatisfy'd and clear'd.

It were very inconſiſtent with that Reſpect that ought to be paid to your Royal Highneſs, to preſume upon your Patience, by deſcending into a particular Enumeration of thoſe Grievances, of which theſe three general Heads abovemention'd are the Springs and Sources. Theſe, Sir, are humbly referr'd to your own

own deep Penetration, who notwithſtanding your elevated princely Station, can even condeſcend to be inform'd, and acquainted with the Sufferings and Hardſhips of the inferior Sort, and to be affected therewith.

Your Royal Highneſs has lately given an undeniable Teſtimony of the particular Intereſt and Concern that you are pleas'd to take in the Affairs of the Army, by having appointed Commiſſioners to examine the Pretenſions of all ſuch Perſons as enjoy the Benefit of Half-pay. In the Courſe of which Examination, ſeveral Abuſes have already been detected; and doubtleſs, many others ſhall hereafter be diſcover'd, to the Benefit both of the Government, and of thoſe Officers whoſe Pretenſions to the Pay are allow'd to be juſt. For on the one Hand, the Nation will be conſiderably eas'd of its Charge, after the Liſts are purg'd. And on the other Hand, the villainous Practice of perſonating Officers deceas'd, and ſo receiving their Pay, (as has been frequently done by ſeveral Counterfeits for Years together) will hereby be defeated. And farther, it is naturally to be ſuppos'd, that ſeveral Officers of the

ſtand-

ſtanding Regiments die yearly; now, if the Vacancies happening thereby, be fill'd up with Reduc'd Officers, according to Seniority, as was order'd, the Government will ſave conſiderably by it, and likewiſe Juſtice will by this means be equally diſtributed, according to his Majeſty's ſaid Order, and his gracious Intentions.

The Redreſs of this Abuſe may be farther render'd effectual; firſt, by ordering printed Liſts of the Reduc'd Officers continu'd on the Eſtabliſhment of half Pay; and by his Majeſty's iſſuing out an Order, that every ſuch continu'd Officer ſhall appear before any Two of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, in the County where he ſhall happen to reſide, and there produce his Commiſſion, and make Affidavit that he is the individual Perſon, whoſe Name is inſerted therein, and ſpecify'd in the aforeſaid Liſt; and that authentick Certificates be return'd of ſuch Appearances, under the Hands of the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace, to the reſpective Agents in *London*, to be by them deliver'd into the Paymaſter-General's Office, when the Pay is demanded. And, in the next Place, it ſeems neceſſary that

that his Majeſty's Orders to the Secretary at War be renew'd, *viz.* That no Commiſſion be given for a Vacancy in a ſtanding Regiment, but to a Reduc'd Officer on the authentick Liſt.

The Premiſes are humbly offer'd to your Royal Highneſs's prudent Conſideration, on the Behalf of the Reduc'd Officers, whoſe greateſt Ambition is to approve themſelves loyal Subjects to his ſacred Majeſty, and to deſerve your Royal Countenance and Protection.

And, Great Sir, it is moſt ſolemnly avow'd to your Royal Highneſs, that the Perſon who makes this honeſt but humble Attempt in favour of thoſe Gentlemen, by laying this ſhort State of their Caſe before you, did never ſerve in the Army, nor has any particular Intereſt in it, nor does he indeed enjoy any publick Poſt under the Government; but he is originally mov'd to make this Addreſs to your Royal Highneſs, from a Principle of Love and Charity to his own Fellow-Subjects and Countrymen. And being a Man of a general Converſation, as well as ſome ſmall Obſervation, the abovemention'd Hardſhips, Sufferings, and Abuſes, could not

poſſibly eſcape his Notice. This he owns has rais'd in him ſuch a degree of Concern, as he hopes will be graciouſly accepted by your Royal Highneſs, in Apology for the Liberty hereby taken; and that by a wiſe and prudent Redreſs, through your princely Mediation, the ſaid aggriev'd Officers may feel the good Effects of his Majeſty's natural Juſtice and Clemency; which is the ſole Motive of this humble Preſumption of one, who is with all poſſible Reſpect and Submiſſion,

SIR,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS's

moſt Obedient and

moſt Humble Servant.